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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An optical disk apparatus that is adapted to irradiate an optical beam on an optical disk to realize signal recording, said optical disk apparatus comprising:

characteristic determining means for replaying a  
10 signal recorded on the optical disk after a predetermined time period elapses from the time of the recording of the signal, and determining a characteristic of the optical disk based on the replayed signal; and

control means for controlling the signal  
15 recording on the optical disk based on the characteristic determined by the characteristic determining means.

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2. The optical disk apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristic determining means is arranged to replay the signal recorded on the optical disk after a time period required for the characteristic of the  
25 optical disk to stabilize elapses.

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3. The optical disk apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristic determining means is arranged to replay the signal that is recorded earlier in time by the predetermined time period.

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5           4. The optical disk apparatus as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein the control means controls a power of the  
optical beam irradiated on the optical disk based on the  
characteristic determined by the characteristic  
determining means.

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          5. The optical disk apparatus as claimed in  
15 claim 1, wherein the control means controls a recording  
speed for the signal recording based on the characteristic  
determined by the characteristic determining means.

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          6. A characteristic determining method for an  
optical disk apparatus that is adapted to irradiate an  
optical beam on an optical disk to realize signal  
25 recording, said method comprising:  
          replaying a signal recorded on the optical disk  
after a predetermined time period elapses from the time of  
the recording of the signal; and  
          determining a characteristic of the optical disk  
30 based on the replayed signal.

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7. The characteristic determining method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the signal is replayed after a time period required for the characteristic of the optical disk to stabilize elapses.

8. The characteristic determining method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the signal to be replayed is recorded earlier in time by the predetermined time period.

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9. An optical disk apparatus that is adapted to irradiate an optical beam on an optical disk to realize signal recording, said optical disk apparatus comprising:

a microcomputer adapted to record a signal on the optical disk, wait a predetermined time period to elapse from the time of the recording of the signal to allow a characteristic of the signal to stabilize, and replay the signal and determine the characteristic of the signal based on the replayed signal.

10. A method of determining a characteristic of a recording signal on an optical disk, comprising:

recording a signal on the optical disk;

waiting a predetermined time period to elapse

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from the time of the recording of the signal to allow a characteristic of the signal to stabilize; and

replaying the signal and determining the characteristic of the signal based on the replayed signal.

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11. A method of controlling recording of a  
10 signal on an optical disk, comprising:

performing a recording operation on the optical disk;

stopping the recording operation, and allowing a  
predetermined time period to elapse for a characteristic  
15 of a signal recorded during the recording operation to stabilize;

replaying the signal and determining the characteristic of the signal based on the replayed signal;  
and .

20 restarting recording based on the characteristic of the signal.

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12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein  
if the characteristic of the signal is within a  
predetermined control range but outside a permissible  
range for a current recording power, then further  
30 including the step of changing the recording power to  
thereby reduce the characteristic of the signal before  
restarting the recording.

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13. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein  
5 if the characteristic of the signal is outside a  
predetermined control range, then further including the  
step of decreasing a recording speed and changing the  
recording power according to the decreased recording speed.

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14. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein  
the recording operation includes recording a plurality of  
15 signals, and the step of replaying the signal includes  
replaying the latest signal of the recording operation.

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15. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein  
the recording operation includes recording a plurality of  
signals, and the predetermined time period is measured  
from the latest signal of the recording operation.